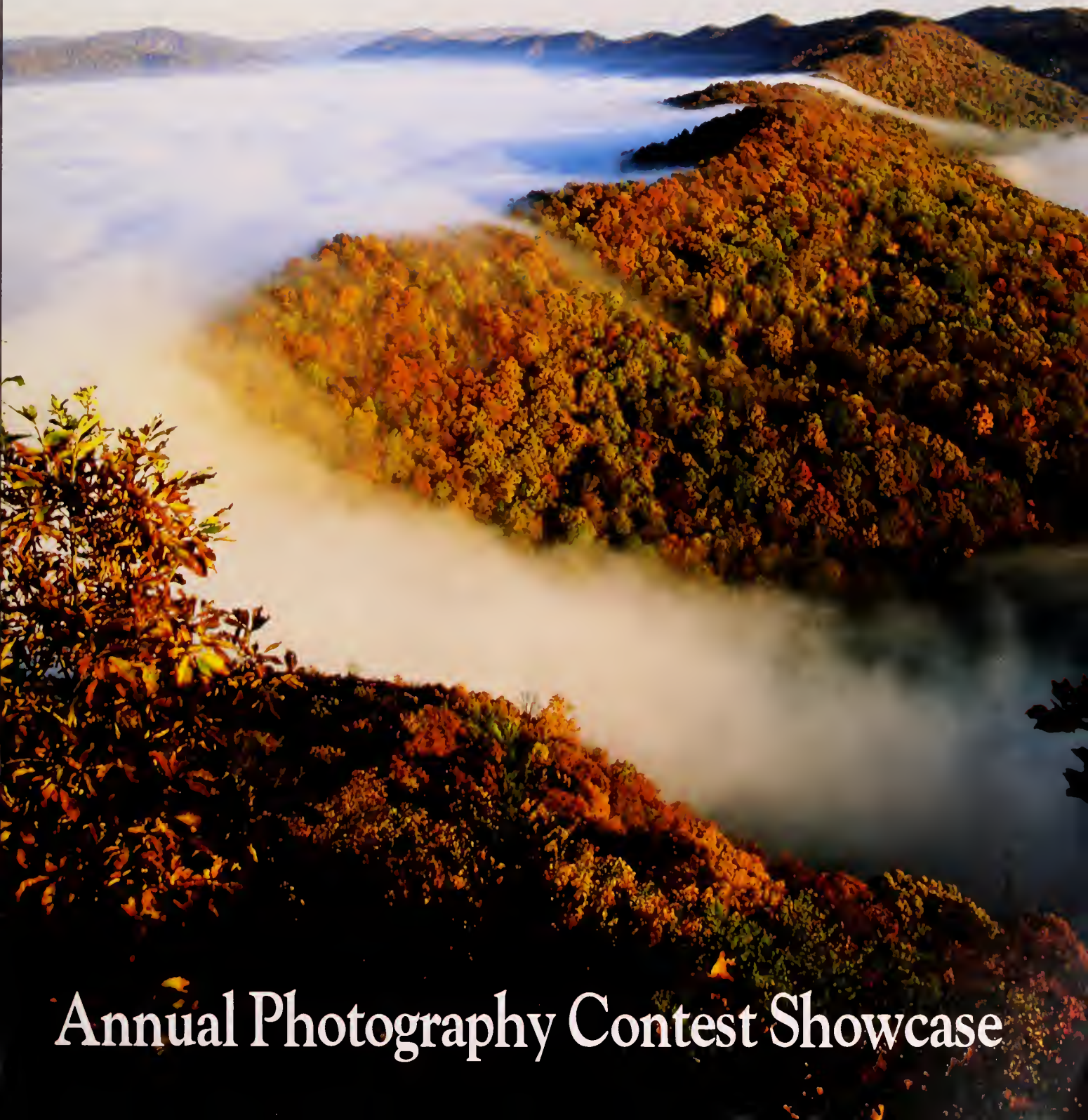


VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

MARCH 2005

TWO DOLLARS



Annual Photography Contest Showcase



Director's Column

William L. Woodfin, Jr

If you ever needed a reason to explain why you love living in Virginia, then this year's Annual Photography Showcase issue of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine may be all that you need to show someone. Once you've looked at some of the stunning and amazing images in this special issue, I am sure that you will agree with me that there is no other place on earth like Virginia.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to live in a state that allows me to wake up in the morning to a brilliant sunrise along the Atlantic Ocean and to watch the close of a beautiful day as the sun sets on the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains. We also are fortunate each year to experience the best that the outdoors has to offer through winter, spring, summer and fall. Our options are almost limitless when it comes to hunting, fishing, boating and just simply kicking back and watching the world around us. We have thousands of acres of wildlife management areas, national parks, federal refuges and city and county parks right here in Virginia to visit each year.

A lot of work has gone into bringing you this special issue. From the dedicated people who took these remarkable photographs, to the staff of *Virginia Wildlife*, who spent countless hours reviewing thousands of photographs that were submitted and then had the daunting task of picking the best-of-the-best. My thanks go all who took the time to participate in



this special issue. With their help and dedication we have been able to highlight some of the best of Virginia's wildlife and natural resources.

Two hundred years ago, during the infancy of our great nation, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "For if one link in nature's chain might be lost, another might be lost, until the whole of things will vanish by piecemeal." These words serve as a reminder to us that we should never take for granted the responsibilities that have been bestowed upon us as stewards of all that is wild and natural. If we, for only a minute, take our eyes off what is really important to us, we may find the things that we truly cherish may one day only appear to us in a photograph or in our memories.

I encourage you to take your time while you look through the pages of this special issue of *Virginia Wildlife*. Focus on the variety of unique wildlife and the beautiful locations that are found throughout the Commonwealth. Picking up a camera is a great way to introduce people to the outdoors all year long. It not only allows us to hone our artistic skills, but it makes us more aware of our surroundings and allows us to see and to appreciate some of the sights and colors that might otherwise go unnoticed in this fast paced world that we live in. Photography also allows us to share the experiences of discovering the beauty and mystery found in the red of a ladybug's wing or the power of a soaring eagle. Enjoy.

Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.

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MARCH CONTENTS



About The Cover

While hiking along the Wilderness Road, **Harold Jerrell**, of Rose Hill, reached the Pinnacle which looked out over Cumberland Gap where three states meet: Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. Captivated by what he saw, Harold photographed the magical moment

when the "Gap" filled with a billowing blanket of fog, and the orange, fall foliage glowed in the early morning light. Using a Nikon N90 camera, Tamron's new 28-300mm f3.5-6.3 lens, and Provia 100 slide film, Harold froze a scene in time which was probably experienced by late 1700s explorer Daniel Boone as he blazed the Wilderness Road, as it has come to be known, opening the west to future pioneers. Congratulations to Harold for winning the grand prize—the coveted cover of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine!

Additional copies of the 2004 Annual Photography Contest Showcase are \$2 each. Make check payable to Treasurer of Virginia and mail to Virginia Wildlife, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104.

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

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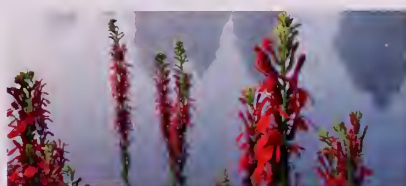
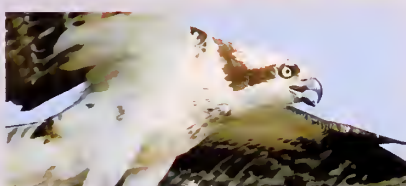
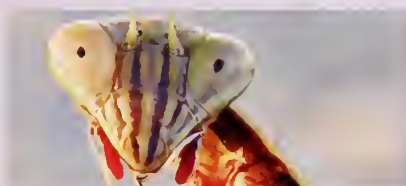
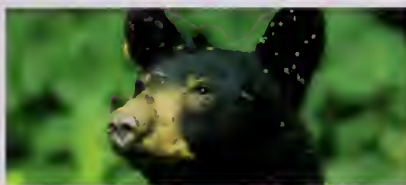
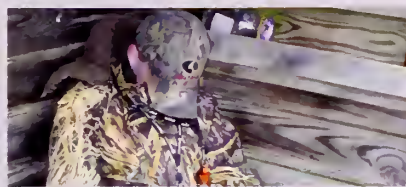
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Virginia Wildlife

Annual Photography Contest Showcase

by Lynda Richardson

As I walked into a Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries conference room that day in early December, I couldn't believe the staggering amount of packages spread across every square inch of table space, streaming out into neatly organized mail room boxes on the floor. "Oh my gosh, look at all of these submissions!" And boy, did we; all 1,702 slides and prints sent in by 183 photographers were carefully screened for the initial first round of judging, which, in itself, took an entire day. It was very difficult but we had to start somewhere. And, as you've probably guessed, it turned out to be quite a challenge to narrow down the submissions for each category and then, limit our selection to a first, second, third, and "no more than" five honorable mentions. The first day, we edited out around 900 images. We are so proud of the caliber of work you are sending in!

Once we narrowed down each category, the next day the judges walked around and reviewed the remaining photographs. We worked category by category and voted for our favorites. We discussed the merits of a photograph's composition, sharpness, color, framing, subject matter, its "how hard is this to get" factor, and the quality of the slide or print (particularly with the digital

prints). We noted whether a photographer followed instructions with such things as including a Delivery Memo, as requested, or whether different category entries were placed in separate envelopes, or not. (Please be sure to read the newly revised rules for our next competition!) All these things added up to which images were finally selected and why.

Judging the competition again this year were: professional photographer, Lynda Richardson (me!); editor, Lee Walker; art director, Emily Pels; production assistant Carol Kushlak; and contributing editors, Mel White, Ron Messina and Julia Dixon.

Yes, it took two days to judge the competition, but I think the hardest image to select this year was the Grand Prize winning cover photograph. We had



With almost double the number of entries from last year it took seven judges, two days, to look through 1,702 images that were sent by 183 photographers.

MANY great images to choose from but I think you'll agree that Harold Jerrell's image of a cloud-covered Cumberland Gap really fits the bill. With approximately 70,000 copies of this Annual Photography Contest Showcase issue printed, figuring an average of 5 folks seeing each copy of the magazine, that's a lot of great exposure for Harold! Congratulations!

We would especially like to thank our devoted sponsors. A BIG HIP, HIP, HURRAH for the Eastman Kodak Company, who again, generously donated our first place prizes; the winners of the adult categories can choose from either a

brick (20 rolls) of Kodak Professional slide or print film or, for the digital folks, Kodak Professional Ink Jet paper. The first place kid winners will receive their choice of either 10 rolls of slide or print film. Is that great, or what? Another BIG HIP, HIP, HURRAH goes out to Richmond Camera, who graciously continues to sponsor the second place award winners with \$50 gift certificates towards photofinishing services to be used at any of their numerous retail stores throughout the state. (What a great way for contest winners to process their Kodak film and print their entries for the next year's competition.) And, as always, *Virginia Wildlife* magazine is pleased to offer our third place winners an official Virginia Wildlife ball cap.

But, you know, ALL OF YOU ARE WINNERS! You submitted some awesome photographs (making our judging really difficult) and it was a very tough competition, as you will see by the final selection appearing in this issue. If you didn't win this year, please don't give up hope! Study the photographs that won, see what you might do differently, and try again. In the upcoming May issue of the magazine, there will be an article on how to enter

photography competitions which should help you to improve your odds. And I saw this year that there were several family "teams" competing together; father/daughter, mother/daughter, sister/brother, all working together towards the common goal of entering the contest together. I LOVE THAT! Maybe you too could team up with someone and have a little friendly competition to help challenge you. To me, nothing is more fun than going out to shoot photographs and enjoying the comradery of fellow photographers.

I think you will agree that this issue of the *Virginia Wildlife* Annual Photography Contest Showcase is the best yet. We hope you enjoy it because we sure enjoyed putting it together for you. Happy Shooting!

Scenic Seasons



Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the birds their own sweet melody. You will repay them with a smile and a little dream of your own.

—Rumi

FIRST PLACE

Brian L. Zimmerman

"I shot this the morning after the first snow of the season, which started as snow and ended up as a freezing rain that coated everything with ice and left these icicles glistening in the morning sunlight," reports multi-winner Brian L. Zimmerman of Chester. Shot at Point of Rocks Park in Chester, Brian used a Canon Powershot Pro90 IS digital camera with a Canon 500D closeup lens to take first place with this dramatic shot. Congratulations!



SECOND PLACE

Douglas Graham

Second place goes to multi-winner Douglas Graham of Bluemont for his gorgeous shot of a misty woodland at the Big Meadows campground in Shenandoah National Park. Douglas used a Gitzo G1325 tripod with a Kirk ball-head, and a Nikon D1X digital camera with a Nikkor 28-70mm f2.8 lens to capture this mystical moment. Beautiful!

HONORABLE MENTION

Burton Floyd

Silent to the history that came before it, this delicate fall scene only hints of the hundreds of trees that passed along this track as the area was clear cut many years ago. Multi-winner Burton Floyd of Buena Vista captured a moment where the track was nearly obscured by fallen leaves with the tall trees growing up around it. This image was shot with a Nikon D100 digital camera, and a 28-80mm zoom lens at 1/80th @ f4.5 with the ISO set at 200. Nice shot Burton!





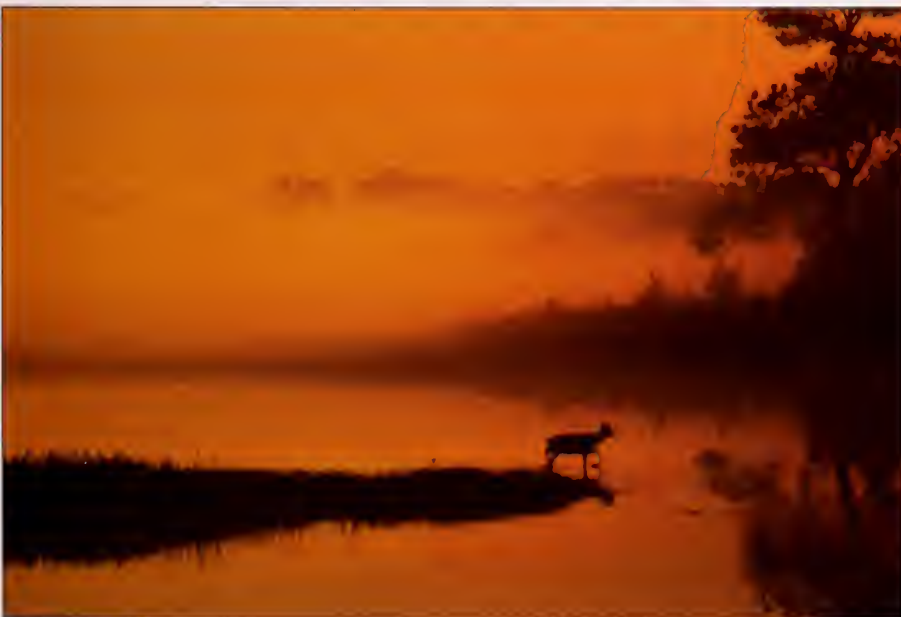
THIRD PLACE

Brian L. Zimmerman

"Secret Falls," located at the base of Falling Springs near Covington, required quite a hike to reach, but the payoff was well worth it for this third place winning photograph by multi-winner Brian L. Zimmerman of Chester. Using a Canon Powershot Pro90 IS digital camera and a 42mm focal length lens, Brian recorded the scene shooting at 0.3 seconds at f8.0 with the ISO set at 50. Brian mentions that, "I figure it ("Secret Falls") is one of Virginia's best kept secrets, plus this view is not often seen, due to the difficult and dangerous hike to the bottom of the falls." Awesome!

*Nothing is more beautiful
than the loveliness of the
woods before sunrise.*

George Washington Carver



HONORABLE MENTION

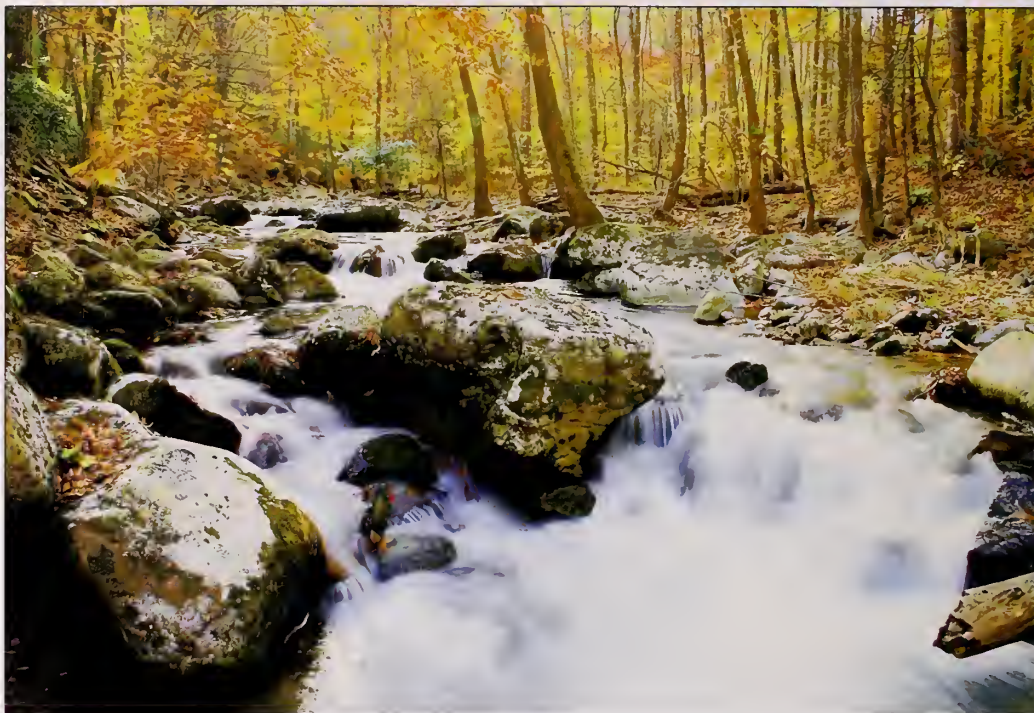
Dennis Jordon

Dennis Jordon of Powhatan captures an honorable mention with this stunning photograph of a sika deer crossing an impoundment just after sunrise at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. (It pays to get up early!) Dennis used a Nikon N90 camera, a Tokina 400mm lens, and a Gitzo tripod to get this gorgeous image on Fuji Velvia slide film. Awesome photograph Dennis!

HONORABLE MENTION

Kai Hui

Multi-winner Kai Hui of Charlottesville got his first SLR camera, a Canon Digital Rebel, in September 2003 and has been hooked on photography ever since. This is the very first contest he has ever entered. Not bad for a "beginner," even though I wouldn't call Kai a beginner after viewing his work. This fabulous "Autumn Creek" photograph was taken around the Crabtree Waterfall area using a Canon Digital Rebel camera and a Canon EF-S 18-55mm lens. Awesome Kai!



Scenic Seasons

HONORABLE MENTION

Burton Floyd

Burton Floyd of Buena Vista wins again with this photograph of a walking bridge at Crabtree Falls. This colorful image was shot with a Nikon D100 digital camera and a 20-35mm lens at 1/90th of a second at f5.0 at ISO 200. Nice job!



Cold and Clammy Critters



"The toad is so wild & fearless, I can be found anywhere, just from where he lives, in a few feet away. It is always on his territory."

(Doug Graham)

WIN FIRST PLACE

Douglass Graham

Last year's big winner and a multi-winner this year, Douglas Graham of Bluemont takes first place with this great image of a pair of toads getting wild and crazy during the spring breeding season. He captured this image in Pine Grove, Virginia, using a Nikon D2H digital camera, 70-200mm f2.8 VR lens, and a Gitzo G1325 tripod with a Kirk ballhead. Fabulous!



SECOND PLACE

Frederic B. Siskind

Frederic B. Siskind of McLean slithers into second place with a lovely image of a rough green snake. This elegant creature was photographed at Great Falls Park taken with a Nikon camera and slide film, and a Nikon 200mm macro lens. Beautiful!

HONORABLE MENTION

James C. Whiteside

"While walking through a garden in Norfolk, I spotted this little tree frog resting in the flowers," reports honorable mention recipient and multi-winner James C. Whiteside of Norfolk. Using a Fuji S602 digital camera, and a 1.4X teleconverter, James was able to capture a winner. Good job!

Cold and Clammy Critters





THIRD PLACE **Brett Dawson**

One morning, while looking for a praying mantis to photograph, Brett Dawson of Aylett stumbled upon this delightful green tree frog perched in one of his azaleas. To capture third place, Brett was ready with his Canon EOS Rebel Ti camera, a Sigma 28-90mm lens, and Fuji Provia 100 slide film. Good spotting Brett!



HONORABLE MENTION

Gayle Fischer

Multi-winner Gayle Fischer of Virginia Beach wins an honorable mention for her wonderful moment with a frog in a pond. Gayle used an Olympus E100RS camera shooting at a focal length of 570mm. She says, "This frog blended so well with its surrounding that I almost missed it. Fortunately, I had my A200 1.5 teleconverter with me." Good spotting Gayle!



HONORABLE MENTION Tim Service

Peeeeep. Peeeeep! I can almost hear the call of this tiny spring peeper! Tim Service of Meadows of Dan heard him, searched around, listened again, and finally spotted the little guy calling his heart out on a twig. Using an HP 945 PhotoSmart digital camera, with the focal length set to macro and the auto flash on, Tim captured this honorable mention shot at the edge of a bluff above the Dan River in his hometown. Persistence pays!

The Sporting Life



FIRST PLACE

Bill Longan



As Robert Longan, 18 years old, and "Ace" dozed in the biting chill of the last day of hunting season in 2003, Bill Longan of Richmond grabbed a moment that said it all. This first place, winning sporting life image was taken at Cohoke Low Grounds Marsh on the Pamunky River, using an Olympus C-4000 zoom digital camera. Great shot Bill!



SECOND PLACE

Paul Dracos

Paul Dracos of Richmond captured second place for his snowy scene of grouse hunter, Dave Witcoskie, at the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area. Paul reports that they didn't get any grouse that day, but had a fantastic time enjoying the beautiful scenery and snow; "a great excuse to get out!" Paul used a Nikon N80 camera, a Sigma 28-70mm lens, and Provia 400 speed slide film to get the photograph. Well done!

The Sporting Life

HONORABLE MENTION

Leslie Bowery

Patrick Bauserman, age 5, seems to have found a comfortable spot fishing on Wilkens Lake in his hometown of Winchester. Mom, Leslie Bowery of Winchester reports that Patrick out fishes his dad, Leonard Bauserman, everytime they go out. (Better work on that dad!) Leslie shot this scene with a Nikon N65 camera and Kodak print film. Good job Leslie!





THIRD PLACE

Wayne E. Wolfersberger

After a February snow, multi-winner Wayne E. Wolfersberger of Oak Hill ventured out to Great Falls Park looking for winter scenes to photograph. While on one of the overlooks, he spotted this lone kayaker just before he paddled over the falls. Wayne said he was able to fire off several shots before the kayaker went over, using his Nikon F100 camera with a Nikon 70-300mm lens, Fuji Velvia slide 50 film, and a tripod. Brrrr, I hope the kayaker didn't have to do a roll! Good job Wayne!



HONORABLE MENTION

Ed Neville

Past winner and a multi-winner this year, Ed Neville of Springfield shares this relaxing image of a touring kayak pulled up on the shore at Mason Neck State Park and National Wildlife Refuge. He reports, "It is all about being at the right place at the right time." Ed used his Canon A2E EOS camera, a 24mm lens, and slide film to win an honorable mention. Ahhhhhhh!



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HONORABLE MENTION

James Whiteside

What could be more perfect than a late afternoon, spring trout fishing trip on a quiet creek? Multi- winner James Whiteside of Norfolk wins again, but this time with his picture of a contented fisherman enjoying a day on Hawksbill Creek in Luray. The creek had just been stocked with trout a day or two before and, with a hatch going on, what could be better? Using an Olympus 2100 digital camera, James captured this tranquil scene. (Wish I was there!)



HONORABLE MENTION

Clancey Deel

This tranquil scene was captured with a Canon digital camera by honorable mention winner Clancey Deel of Richlands. Clancey reports that this photograph was taken early one morning at one of his favorite fishing spots at Burkes Garden Fishing Club, in Burkes Garden. I think Clancey's title, "Reflections," is quite fitting in more ways than one. Beautiful!



HONORABLE MENTION

Kay L. Stewart

Children and fishing just go together! Kay L. Stewart of Bergton wins an honorable mention for her delightful photograph of a very happy Madison holding the biggest fish of the day. Kay reports that her neighbors and their three children dropped by one Sunday afternoon to fish in her family's backyard pond. The children had never fished before and all three caught fish. The smile on Madison's face says it all. Kay captured this shot with a Canon Powershot S50 digital camera set on automatic. Awesome!

Marvelous Mammals

"Just as a fisherman cannot catch fish unless he sits with the where, a wildlife photographer cannot shoot great wildlife images unless he is out there with camera in hand and the knowledge of where to go when the magnificent moment occurs."

George A. Munn, Jr. (Baltimore, Maryland) 1996 National Wildlife Photography Competition



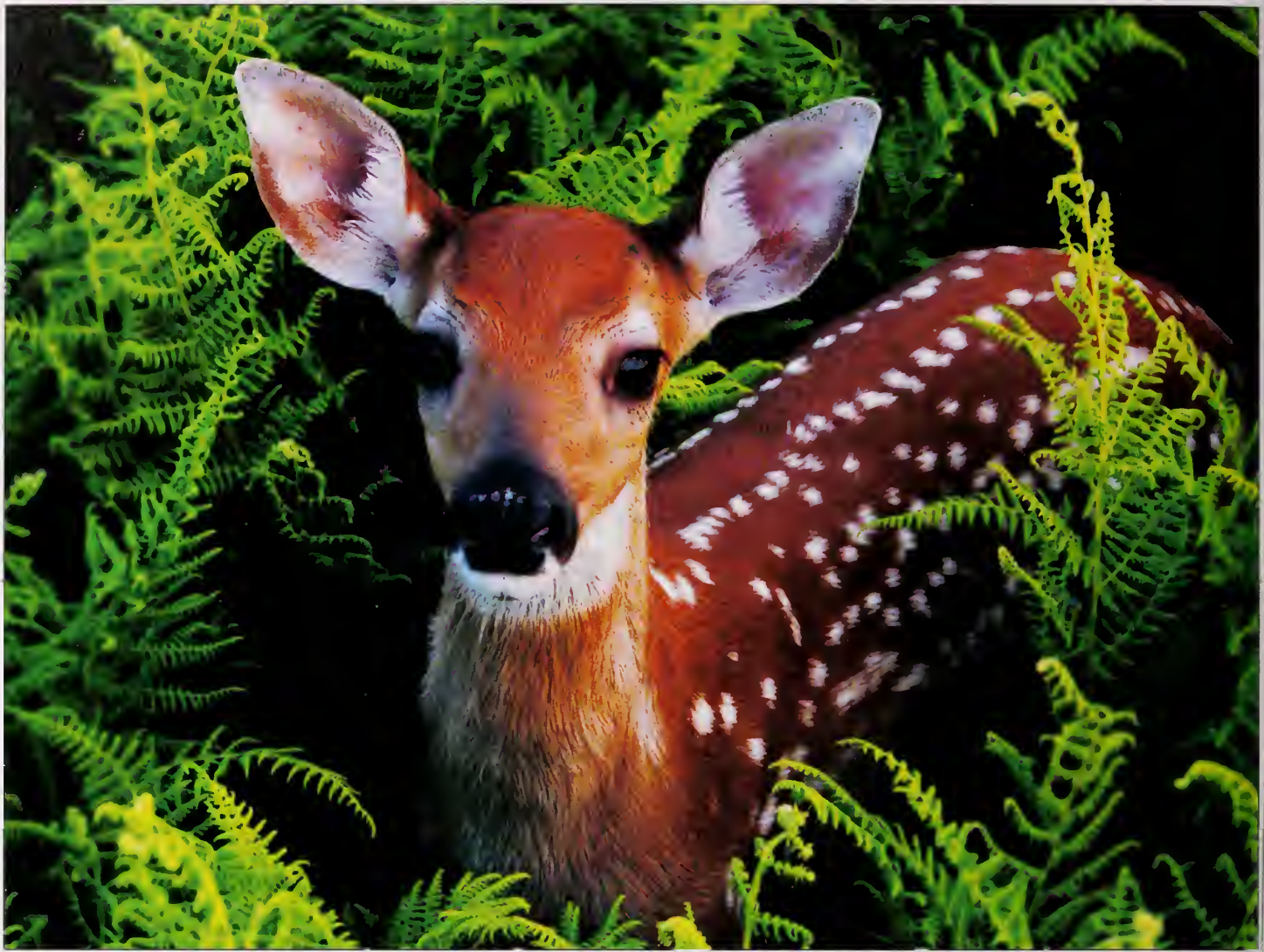
FIRST PLACE



Bryan McCarthy

Covered in seed pods and looking a bit scruffy in its summer coat, this black bear still looks good enough for a *first place* win for Bryan McCarthy of Centreville. Bryan reports that after setting out sunflower seeds as bait for crows and blue jays, he retired to a permanent blind in his backyard, which adjoins Shenandoah National Park. Checking once in awhile

out of the blind's window for "visitors," Bryan was startled to see a bear munching away at the seed. After shooting a few portraits, Bryan then crept out of the blind to change his angle, and captured this winning shot of the bear, which he thinks, normally raids his bird seed bait at night. Bryan used a Canon EOS 3 camera, a 600mm f4.0 lens (Good grief! How did you carry that honking big lens?), and Provia 100 slide film to make this winning image. Awesome!



SECOND PLACE

Ruimin Wang

Peering from a halo of soft, green ferns, this innocent white-tail fawn, wins a second place for Ruimin Wang of Fairfax. Photographed in Shenandoah National Park, Ruimin used a Nikon Coolpix 5700 digital camera and a Nikkor ED 8.9-71.2mm, 8X Optical Zoom. Lovely!

HONORABLE MENTION

Eric Schauer

Cheeks fat with nuts, this chipmunk gets an honorable mention for Eric Schauer of Maurertown. Eric captured this chipper little character at the Virginia Arboretum using a Nikon Coolpix 990. Good job Eric!

Marvelous Mammals





Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.

Rachel Carson

THIRD PLACE

Richard Terrell

Glowing in the last light of the day, these beautiful white-tailed deer pause before drinking from a rain-filled puddle in the middle of Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park. This past summer drenching rains soaked Big Meadows, as well as the rest of Virginia, but proved fruitful for third place winner Richard Terrell of Richmond. Despite very soggy boots, he said this shot was well worth the effort. We think so too! Beautiful shot Rich!



HONORABLE MENTION

Crystal Pruett

Who says your backyard isn't a great place to get fantastic photographs? Crystal Pruett of Richmond can prove it! This little eastern cottontail stopped by her backyard fish pond for a drink and Crystal was ready with her Canon EOS-10D digital camera, a 75-300mm IS lens set at 300mm. She even provided her settings; 100 ISO, f5.6 at 1/250th of a second. Way to go Crystal!



HONORABLE MENTION

George S. Good

George S. Good of New Market captures an honorable mention with his great shot of a raccoon reclining in a tree taken at Massanutten Mountain. Photographed with a Canon Rebel 2000 and a Quantary 70-300mm lens, George used Kodak High Definition 400 speed film to capture this great pose. Awesome!



HONORABLE MENTION

Jim Diersing

This winner caught everyone's eye. How often does one see an eastern gray squirrel, in the rare black phase, eating a pumpkin? Jim Diersing of Manassas captured this moment after pitching his old Halloween pumpkin into the woods behind his house. A few days later, he spotted this squirrel eating the pumpkin's lid and grabbed his Canon EOS- 20D digital camera, a 300mm f4.0 lens with a 1.4 teleconverter, and caught this winning shot. Cool!

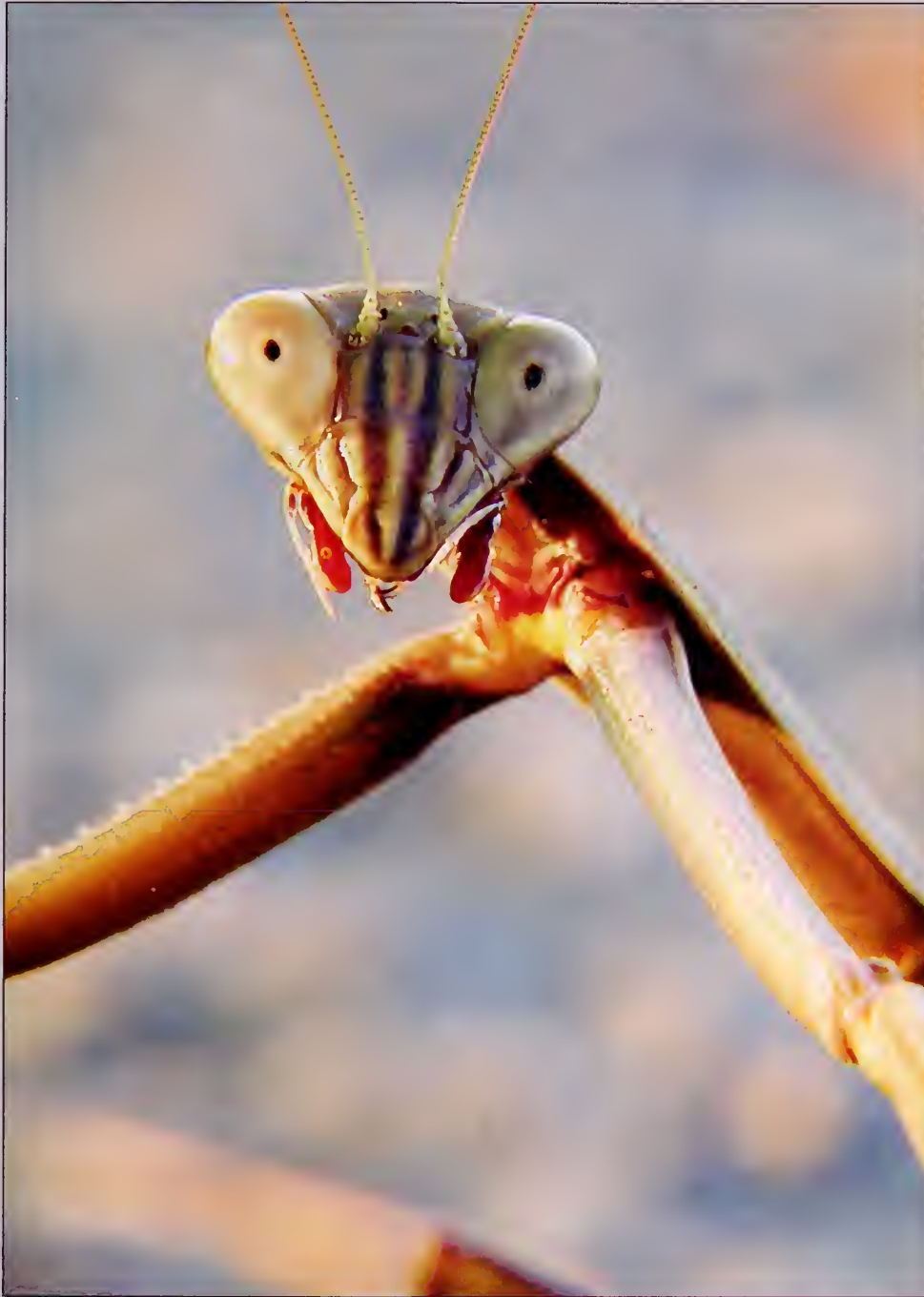


HONORABLE MENTION

David R. Gammon

I wish I had been as lucky as David R. Gammon of Burke! David had just gotten a Fuji 3800 digital camera (3.2 megapixel - 6X optical zoom) when he spotted this red fox from his dining room window. He reports, "It was a lucky point and shoot photo as I was just learning to use the camera." Isn't photography more than just luck? Nice shot!

A Bug's Life



FIRST PLACE

Gayle Fischer

"Two things that photography has taught me are to look everywhere and don't be hesitant to get down on the ground if you have to," reports multi-winner Gayle Fischer of Virginia Beach. Gayle states that while at the Norfolk Botanical Garden, she spotted this praying mantis on the asphalt sidewalk and ended up shooting on her belly to get this first place winner. The eyes are particularly striking in this unusual and very sharp, close look at a praying mantis. She used an Olympus C2100UZ camera and a 112mm lens with a Hoya Macro filter set attached. Great photograph Gayle!

SECOND PLACE

Brian L. Zimmerman

Brian L. Zimmerman of Chester wins again! This time with a second place for his killer shot of a tiny "luminous" spider. Brian used a Canon Powershot Pro 90 IS digital camera and a Canon 500D closeup lens to photograph this cooperative spider in his front yard. Settings recorded were 1/30th of a second at f5.6 with an ISO set at 50 and a 370mm focal length plus 2X close-up lens. "I couldn't fully appreciate her beautiful colors until I saw an enlarged view of the image." Awesome!



HONORABLE MENTION

Dennis Jordan

Multi-winner Dennis Jordan of Powhatan has an eye for the small guy! I don't know how he spotted this tiny grasshopper in a clump of dried Queen Anne's lace along his driveway in Powhatan! Dennis captured this winner using a Fujifilm Finepix S2 Pro digital camera, a 70-210 lens set at 205mm with a 6-T close-up lens screwed to the front of it and a trusty Gitzo tripod. Awesome shot!





THIRD PLACE

Kai Hui

In order to get this shot, multi-winner and bug lover Kai Hui of Charlottesville "had to sit in the mud for the best angle

in order to get both damsels in focus." And getting close to mating bluet damselflies is not as easy as it appears as they are very skittish when mating. Kai also noted that female bluet damsels change color during their life cycle as he

has studied them carefully while photographing them. Using a Canon digital camera and a Tamron 180mm macro lens, Kai was able to net this beautiful insight into A Bug's Life. Well done!



HONORABLE MENTION

Eric Schauer

Pastel color and suddenly, a red ladybug clinging to a soft-veined leaf takes an honorable mention for multi-winner Eric Schauer of Mauertown. Using a Nikon Coolpix 990 digital camera, Eric grabbed this winner. Beautiful!



HONORABLE MENTION

Brian L. Zimmerman

A tomato hornworm caterpillar wins honorable mention for multi-winner Brian L. Zimmerman of Chester, who discovered the caterpillar feeding on one of his tomato plants. Brian placed a perfect white foam core board within a few inches of the hornworm to help add more light to his cooperative subject. A Canon EOS-10D digital camera and a Sigma 105mm f2.8 macro lens on a Slik tripod recorded the shot with settings of 1/90th of a second at f16.0 using an ISO of 400, manually focused. Cool!

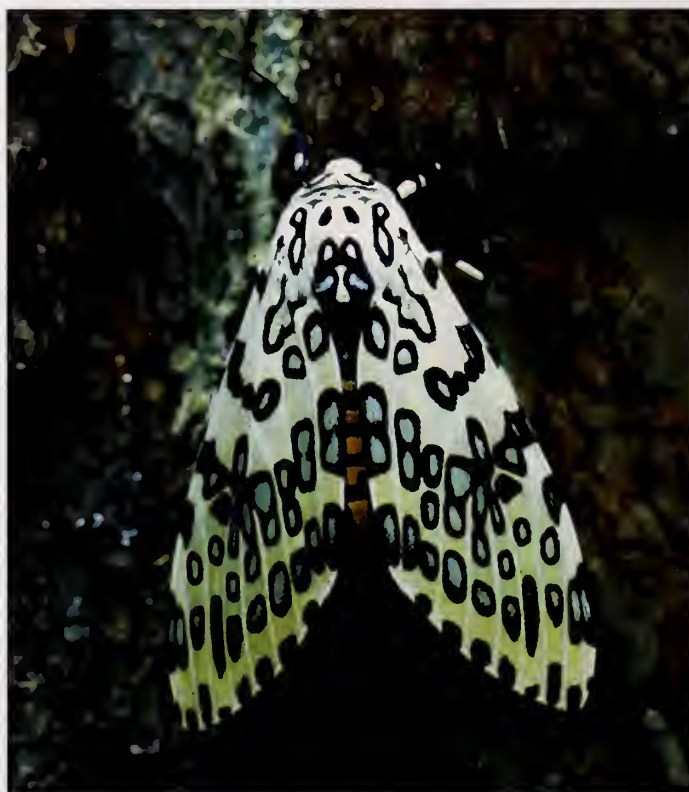
Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain.

Henry David Thoreau

HONORABLE MENTION

Randy Streufert

Longtime contest entrant and multi-winner Randy Streufert of Mason Neck wins an honorable mention for his intriguing photograph of a giant leopard moth taken in his yard near Jacob's Creek. Randy used a Nikon F5 with a Nikon 105mm f2.8 macro lens and Fuji Provia 100F slide film to record the image. Striking image Randy!



Birds of a Feather



FIRST PLACE



Kai Hui

Using a Canon 20D digital camera and a Canon 100-400mm f4.5-5.6 lens, multi-winner Kai Hui of Charlottesville captures first place in a very competitive category. This dramatic image of a female osprey flying with a partially eaten fish was taken along the James River last May. What a great photograph, Kai!

"Birds have always been important to the Indians because they go where they wish, they fight where they want and they are free... The eagle flies highest in the sky of all the birds and so he is the nearest to the Creator and his feathers is the most sacred of all. He is the highest of the birds and so belongs to all the tribes, to all the people."

Buffalo and Seminole



SECOND PLACE

William J. Kautter

William J. Kautter receives second place for this beautiful shot of three snowy egrets on a branch at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. It almost looked like they were specifically placed the exact same distance apart! The strong white of the birds against the dark background makes this a real grabber! Good job! William captured the moment using a Nikon D100 digital camera and a Nikon 80-400mm VR lens.

HONORABLE MENTION

Ed Neville

Multi-winner Ed Neville of Springfield captures an honorable mention with his lovely shot of a female red-winged blackbird perched on a cattail at Huntley Meadows Park. He made the shot using a Canon A2E camera and a 100-400mm IS lens and slide film. Good job!





THIRD PLACE

Douglas Graham

This gorgeous female cardinal takes a third place for multi-winner Douglas Graham of Bluemont. Douglas captured this stunning moment during a snow storm in Pine Grove, using a Nikon 1DX digital camera, a Nikkor 400mm f2.8 lens, a Nikon speed light SB-800 with projection flash, and a Gitzo G1325 tripod with a Kirk ballhead. Stunning!



HONORABLE MENTION

Jim Diersing

Everyone laughed when they saw this tenacious catbird fighting itself in a truck side mirror. I'm sure the catbird wasn't laughing. He was mad as heck and defending his territory! Multi-winner Jim Diersing of Manassas captured the moment using a Canon EOS-10D digital camera and a Canon EF 300mm f4.0L lens with a 1.4 teleconverter. Jim reports that when heading back from a vacation at Chincoteague, he stopped at a fast food drive-thru where he spotted this catbird attacking the mirror of a parked truck. Jim points out that he particularly likes the fact that you can read the wording at the bottom of the mirror, "Objects in mirror are closer than they appear." Hilarious!!



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HONORABLE MENTION

Randy Streufert

Multi-winner Randy Streufert of Mason Neck wins again with this wonderful photograph of an immature, male ruby-throated hummingbird. Photographed in his yard near Jacob's Creek, Randy says to get this shot he placed his camera and tripod within 5 feet of a hummingbird feeder late one afternoon. Placing some butterfly bush flowers over the feeder, he could "camouflage" it out of the shot. Then, all he had to do was plop down in a nearby chair and wait. Patience pays! Randy got the photograph using a Nikon F5 camera with a Nikon Micro 70-180mm f4.5-5.6 lens and Fuji Provia 100F slide film pushed one stop.



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HONORABLE MENTION

Arthur R. Wycoff

Arthur R. Wycoff of Williamsburg wins an honorable mention for this awesome photograph of a mature bald eagle with a fish. Arthur says that a pair of bald eagles maintain a permanent residence in an area along the James River near his subdivision and he was pretty sure that this might be one of the residents. "I felt incredibly fortunate to be able to photograph it and still stay far enough away so that I would not disturb it while it ate. I call the bird "fish face" since it was anything but a dainty eater." After landing in a tulip poplar tree close to his house, Arthur captured this shot using a Nikon D1X digital camera, a Nikon 400mm AF-S f2.8 lens with a Nikkor 2.0X teleconverter on a Gitzo tripod. Settings recorded were 1/40th at f7.1 with an ISO of 125.

Fantastic Flowers



FIRST PLACE

Eric Schauer

First place goes to multi-winner Eric Schauer of Maurertown for his stunning image of cardinal flowers overlooking a pond on a misty morning in Toms Brook. Eric was able to capture this fabulous image with his trusty Nikon D100 digital camera and a Nikkor 17-55mm DX zoom lens on a Gitzo tripod. Awesome Eric!



SECOND PLACE

Wayne E. Wolfersberger

Multi-winner Wayne E. Wolfersberger of Oak Hill takes second place with this image of a wet mushroom and club moss taken at Burke Lake County Park in Fairfax County. Wayne reported that he was walking around the lake's "wilder" side looking for fall colors to photograph when the weather turned bad. As it started to drizzle, Wayne spotted a red leaf which drew his eye to the mushroom. Wayne used a Nikon F100 camera, a Nikon 200mm macro lens, Fuji Provia 100 slide film, and a tripod to capture this winning shot. Good job!

HONORABLE MENTION

Harold Jerrell

Cover winner Harold Jerrell of Rose Hill wins again with this beautiful portrait of an Indian-pipe squeezing its way up through the forest floor. Using his Nikon N90 camera, Nikon 105mm macro lens, and Provia 100 slide film, Harold captured this shot during the fall of 2004 while hiking on Pine Mountain in Pound, Virginia. Good spotting!





'To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug.'

Helen Keller

THIRD PLACE

Pam Spott

Third place winner Pam Spott of Mechanicsville "almost fell over this 'gone to seed' flower" as a bug flew in and landed on it while she was shooting. Last summer, during a visit to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Pam was on a mission to photograph flowers and insects. "Much to my delight," Pam laughs, "he (the bug and his buddy, another bug) sat a spell to add an extra element to the glistening seeds I was trying to photograph. This entire scene boasted such color, as the sun was hitting it just right, that I couldn't resist staying awhile myself." Pam captured this image with her Canon Rebel G camera, a 35mm lens, a Slik ballhead tripod, and Fuji 50 Velvia slide film. Beautiful shot Pam!



HONORABLE MENTION

James Whiteside

Multi-winner James Whiteside of Norfolk does it again with his third honorable mention, this time for a striking silhouette of a thistle. James found this thistle growing with others along the edge of the Shenandoah River in Luray. James shot this winner with an Olympus C2100 digital camera. Great shot James!



HONORABLE MENTION

Allan Young

Using a Canon Elan camera, a 28-80mm f2.8 lens, a polarizer, and Fuji print film, honorable mention winner Allan Young of Palmyra photographed this lovely image of a tall stand of fall foliated tulip poplar trees along Skyline Drive. Lovely!

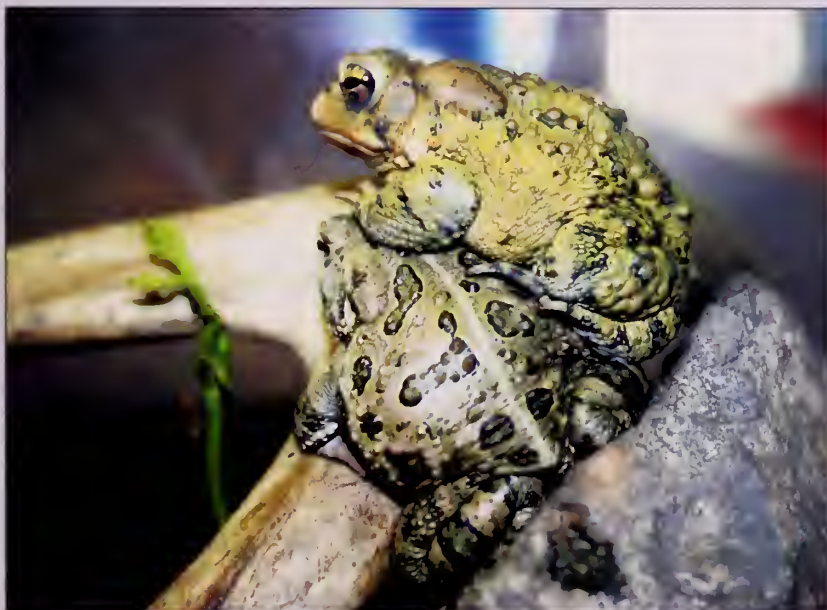
Kids & Cameras 6-12



FIRST PLACE

Hannah Hale, age 10

Hannah Hale of Leesburg wins first place for her beautifully composed image of a robins nest. Hannah took this photograph with a friend's Minolta SP xi camera, an AF 35-80 zoom lens, using Fuji Sensia 400 slide film. Her father, Kevin Hale, reports "after reading and viewing the wonderful pictures in the photography contest, my daughters Hannah and Rachel decided that entering the contest would be a great thing we could do together and thus we began our Daddy-Daughter project that lasted almost the entire year." That is soooo awesome! (Check out sister Rachel's winning honorable mention!) Good job!



SECOND PLACE

Olivia Klele, age 9

Second place goes to Olivia Klele of Mechanicsville for her adorable image of two captive toads hanging out together. Using a Canon Rebel digital camera, (her mom's camera,) and a 18-55mm lens shooting at 1/60 at f4.5, Olivia was able to shoot thru the glass of a terrarium in Maymont Park's Nature Center in Richmond. Both Mom and daughter love taking pictures together! Awesome!



THIRD PLACE

Clarissa Hull, age 11

Clarissa Hull of Richmond wins third place for her delightful photograph of wild ponies taken in Grayson Highlands State Park. Clarissa reports that; "Wild ponies roamed around free, and our family was able to get very close to them. It was very exciting and made our camping trip even better!" Clarissa used a Minolta Weathermatic Dual 35 camera with a 35mm lens and 35mm print film to capture this winning shot. Keep up the good work Clarissa!



HONORABLE MENTION

John W. "Jack" Montgomery, III, age 8

The lighthouse at Assateague Island wins an honorable mention for John W. "Jack" Montgomery, III of Sandston. Jack captured this beautiful scene while on a family vacation in late July using a Canon Sureshot camera and Kodak print film. Way to go Jack!



HONORABLE MENTION

Rachel Hale, age 12

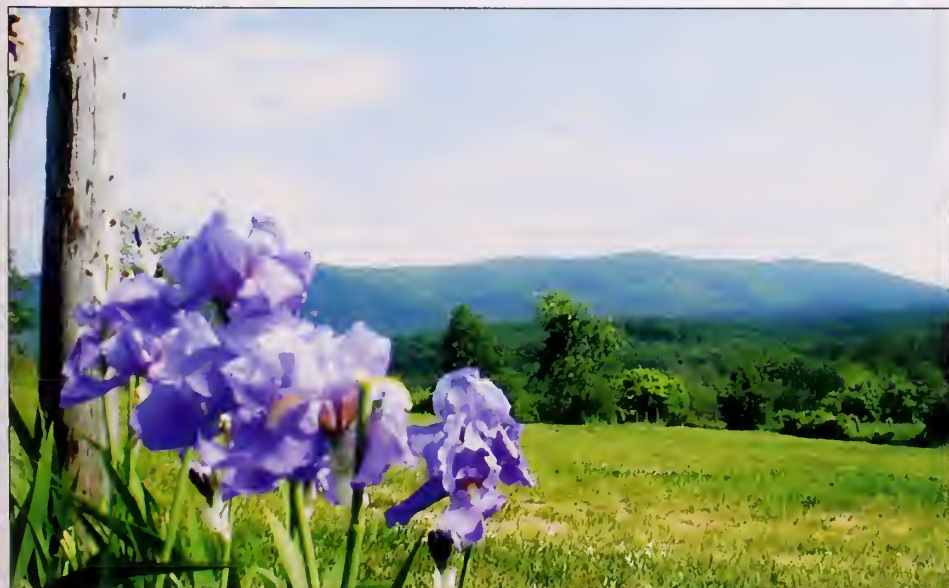
Rachel Hale of Leesburg receives an honorable mention, for her gorgeous photograph of a goose nest full of eggs taken in the early spring at her family's farm pond in Loudoun. As reported by her father, Rachel and her sister Hannah have been working all year towards entering this year's competition. You did GREAT! Congratulations!



HONORABLE MENTION

Nathan Hubble, age 7

Using a Kodak One-Time Use camera, Nathan Hubble of Ceres shot this moody scenic while on a hike along the Appalachian Trail near Knot Maul with his grandfather and brother, Clay. Nice shot Nathan!!!

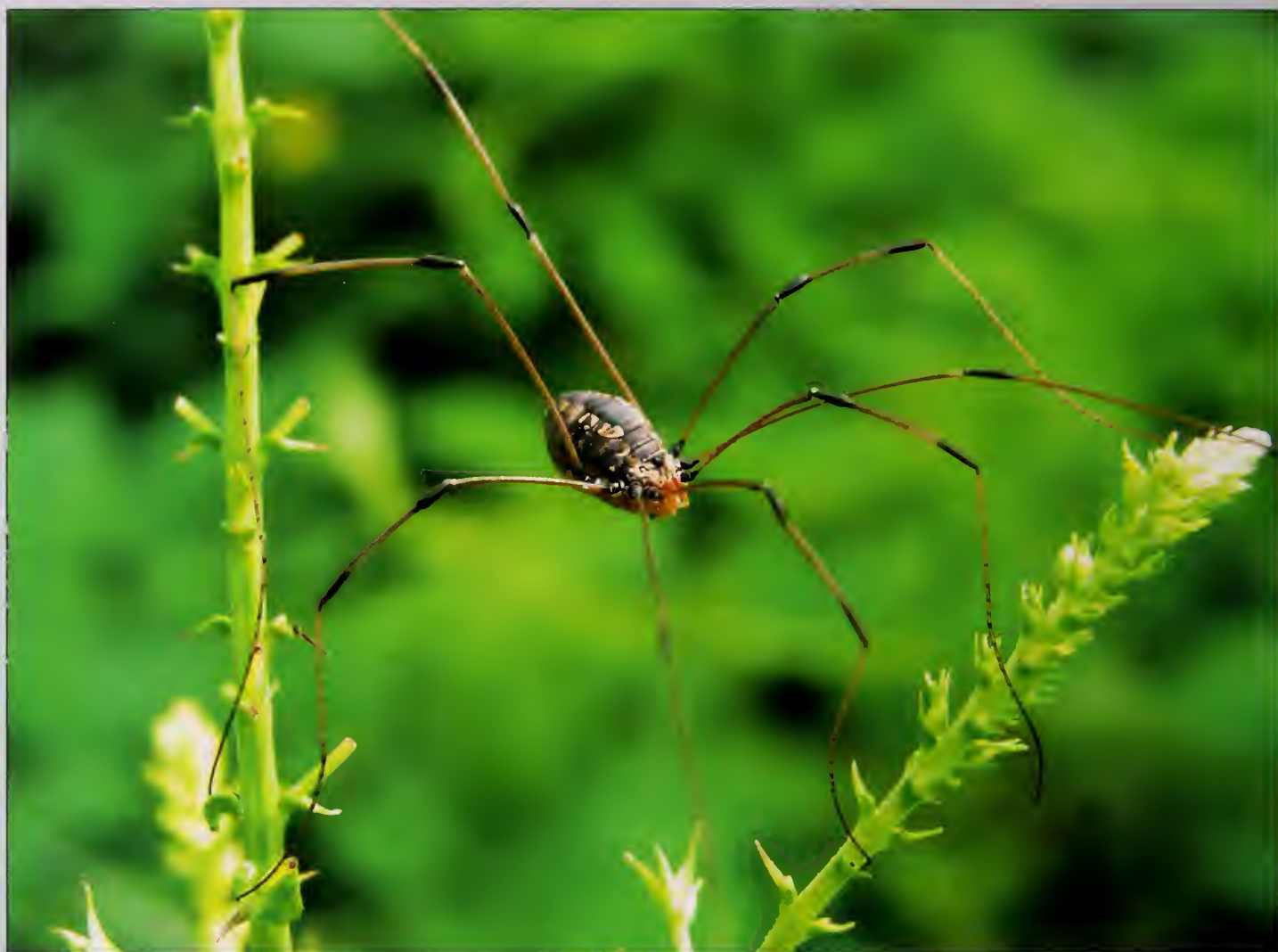


HONORABLE MENTION

Amy Stegeman, age 10

Amy Stegeman of Sterling wins an honorable mention for her lovely photograph of Short Mountain in the Shenandoah Valley framed with flowers. She used an Olympus D490 camera to capture this shot in the spring of 2004. Wonderful scene Amy!

Kids & Cameras 13-18



FIRST PLACE

Lenora Wright

Lenora Wright, age 18, of Harrisonburg wins first place for this awesome shot of a daddy-long-legs taken at the South River Picnic Area in Shenandoah National Park this past August. She used an Olympus Camedia C-5050 ZOOM digital camera using the Macro Mode. Great photograph Lenora!



SECOND PLACE

Christopher Wirth

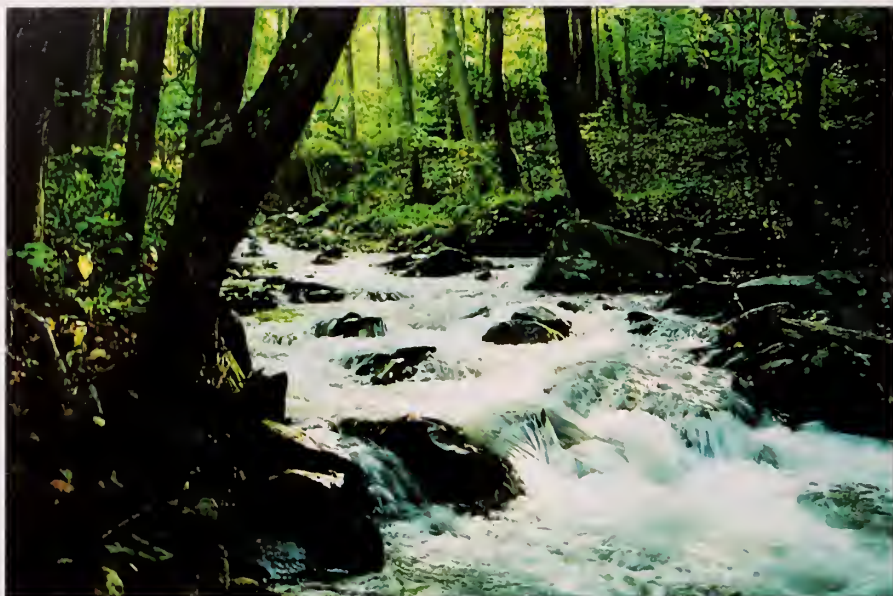
Using a Kodak EasyShare DX4530 digital camera in the close-up mode, Christopher Wirth, age 15, of Powhatan was able to capture second place with this gorgeous image of an Ailanthus webworm moth at a botanical garden. Great spotting Christopher!



THIRD PLACE

Buzzy Rhodes

This lovely scenic of Great Falls, on the Potomac River, wins third place for Dale Patrick "Buzzy" Rhodes, age 18, of Culpeper. Buzzy mentions that he especially likes landscapes and only just got his camera, a Sigma SA-7, this past year. Using FujiColor Super HQ 200 speed film, Buzzy captured this winning shot! Good job Buzzy!



HONORABLE MENTION

Cole Burch

Past winner Cole Burch, age 13, of Christiansburg captures an honorable mention with his beautiful scenic of a fast moving stream photographed at Rock Castle Gorge off of the Blue Ridge Parkway, in Floyd. Cole was hiking with his family and the family dog when this stream caught his eye. This winner was taken with a Canon EOS 10s, a 35-135mm f4/5.6 lens. Good job Cole!



HONORABLE MENTION

Kate Burch

Past winner Kate Burch, age 15, of Christiansburg wins an honorable mention. The photograph of the salamander, held by her brother Cole, was taken at Castle Rock Gorge. Kate was using a Canon EOS 10s camera with a 35-135 zoom f4-5.6 lens. Way to go Kate!



HONORABLE MENTION

Andy Rhodes

A beautiful dogwood flower wins an honorable mention for Andy Rhodes, age 17, of Lignum. Andy captured this colorful image using a Fujica AX-3 camera, a closeup filter on the front of his lens, and 200 speed print film. Nice work Andy!

2005 Virginia Wildlife Photography Contest

It's time to enter your best photographs and let Virginia Wildlife magazine capture your images for thousands to see. Special prizes will be donated by Eastman Kodak, Richmond Camera and Virginia Wildlife and will be given to contest winners. And, one very talented contest winner will have their photograph featured on the cover of Virginia Wildlife magazine as the Grand Prize.

Categories

1. Birds of a Feather
Photographs must be of birds native to and photographed in Virginia.
2. Cold and Clammy Critters
Photographs must be of reptiles and amphibians native to Virginia.
3. A Bug's Life
Photographs must be of insects (which include butterflies), spiders, or other creepy-crawlies that one might find in Virginia.
4. Fantastic Flowers
Photographs must be of flowers, trees, grasses and shrubs that are native to Virginia.
5. Marvelous Mammals
Photographs must be of mammals native to Virginia.
6. Scenic Seasons
Photographs will highlight the four seasons; Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall.
7. The Sporting Life
Pictures should feature hunting, fishing, boating and other outdoor recreational opportunities in Virginia. Please make sure that all activities are done in a SAFE manner (lifejackets, blaze orange, eye and hearing protection...when appropriate).
8. Kids and Cameras
This is a two-part category that encourages kids ages 6-12 and 13-18 to enter any of the above categories.

Rules:

1. The contest is open to any photographer (amateur or professional) except employees of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Contest-related usage rights must be available to Virginia Wildlife.
2. Each photographer may enter up to five (5) original slides or prints per category. **Each**

category must be labeled, sleeved and placed in separate envelopes, but may be mailed together in one envelope. Please mail kids and adult entries in separate envelopes.

3. All photographs submitted must have been taken in Virginia within the past five years.

4. All contest entries must be listed on a piece of paper or "Delivery Memo" with your name, address and phone number. Each entry must be individually listed on this paper stating the category in which it is entered and any details on how and where the image was taken. If possible, please indicate camera type, make, model, lens, film and settings used to take the photograph. Feel free to elaborate on any story surrounding the photograph as well. (If we have space we like to include information on how photographs were taken!)

5. Photographs may be sent in any slide/transparency format, such as 35mm, 2 1/4 or 4X5. Slides should be submitted in clear plastic storage sheets for ease of handling by the judges. Also, please note the top of the photograph by writing, "TOP" on the slide mount or on the back of the print. Color and/or black and white prints up to 5x7 or larger may be submitted as well.

Please do not send prints of digital photographs downloaded from a computer unless they are of high quality. Low-end photographic color printers do not produce prints well enough for reproduction in Virginia Wildlife. If digital prints (4x6 or bigger) are submitted they should be printed at a professional lab. **A CD containing the original digital file of each image must be included with your submission.** Computer generated photographs that are grainy or show pixilation cannot be accepted for judging. Do not submit photographs which have been digitally manipulated. Please include your name, address, and phone number on all slides or prints entered.

6. We prefer that all photographs taken be of wild animals or plants in the wild but will accept photographs of animals or plants taken under "controlled conditions" or in captive sit-

uations. Shots of animals or plants in the wild are given preference over captive shots. Wild animals should not be captured for the sole purpose of photographs for this contest. If you do photograph captive or "controlled" animals this **MUST** be stated in the Delivery Memo.

7. A self-addressed, First Class stamped 11" X 14" envelope (SASE) for return of your photographs must accompany all entries. The reason we require an 11 X 14 envelope is so that if your entries win, we can send you a copy of the magazine displaying your winning entry. **Submissions without a First Class SASE WILL NOT be returned!** If return is by Fed Ex (or other courier) please include a form already filled out with your name, address and phone number. Please do not send money, checks or loose stamps.

8. Deadline for submissions is 5:00 p.m., December 1, 2005. All submissions, except winning entries, will be mailed back by March 31, 2006. Winning entries will appear in the March 2006 issue of Virginia Wildlife magazine and will be returned by May 30, 2006.

9. Mail your contest entries to: 2005 Annual Photography Contest, c/o Virginia Wildlife Magazine, (4010 W. Broad St.) P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104. The courier address is: 2005 Annual Photography Contest c/o Virginia Wildlife Magazine, 4010 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230. It is recommended that you send and return your submission by certified, registered mail, or by a courier who uses a tracking number to locate lost packages.

10. Virginia Wildlife staff members and well-known wildlife/environmental photographer Lynda Richardson will judge all entries. Contest judges will not be responsible for the receipt of damaged photographs or the return of photographs not accompanied by a self-addressed, First Class stamped envelope.

The Virginia Wildlife Annual Photography Contest is offered as a way to bring greater appreciation of Virginia's wildlife and natural resources.

Submissions for the 2005 Virginia Wildlife Annual Photography Contest should be postmarked no later than December 1, 2005.

Virginia Wildlife Magazine



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